

## LIGHT THROWN ON THE SUSSEX TRAGEDY

Extracts from Love Letters  
Tend to Lessen Mystery.

ROUGH COURSE OF LOVE

Parental Objection Was Leading  
Cause of the Fatal Act.

TRAGEDY VIVIDLY RECALLED

Epistles Found on the Body of Young  
Mitchell from His Sweetheart Show  
That She Loved Him With a  
Devotion That Would Go  
Great Lengths Rather  
Than Be Separated.

Now that weeks and nearly months  
have passed since the horrible Mitchell-  
Lee tragedy, near Stony Creek, Sussex  
county, occurred, casting a gloom over  
that section of the State such as has sel-  
dom befallen any part of Virginia, there  
comes to light letters which passed be-  
tween the young man and the girl he  
so loved, which throw much light on  
their relations, and show the existence of  
a strong affection which was mutual.

These letters, or rather extracts from  
them, furnished by relatives of Mr. Ban-  
nister Mitchell, are published to-day for  
the first time, with the hope that they  
may clear up some of the mysteries sur-  
rounding the affair, and leave the public  
to judge whether it was murder and  
suicide or a double suicide.

THE CASE RECALLED.  
One recalling this remarkable case will  
remember that Mr. Bannister Mitchell,  
a young merchant of Stony Creek, and  
Miss Mabel Lee, the daughter of a promi-  
nent merchant of the same place, were  
found dead side by side in the woods,  
something over twenty miles from their  
homes, on the border of Greenville coun-  
ty. They had loved each other for years,  
but parental objection on the part of  
Miss Lee's father had kept them apart.

Before starting on the mission which  
ended in their deaths it was reported that  
they would elope and be married, and  
during their absence of four days before  
their bodies were found it was believed  
they had married and were on their way  
to the West. The extracts which are pub-  
lished below are from letters found on Mr. Mitchell's  
body after his death, and are now in the  
possession of his parents.

HE THOUGHT OF LEAVING.  
The first letter is from Mitchell to Miss  
Lee, when he thought of going to Cuba.  
"I am going to leave home, friends,  
property—my all, everything and every-  
body. I can't wait later than September  
22nd."

Miss Lee in her reply is said to have  
referred to the proposed marriage, May  
21, 1902.

"Bannister, you know November was  
the time first appointed, but owing to the  
busy season you suggested October. Well,  
I am willing to name that time if I can  
get ready by then, so suppose we say  
the 20th of October."

June 4, 1902—"I don't think we will  
have much more trouble now, and please  
let this be the end of our deception. Never  
again let's deceive anybody. It's wrong,  
I know, and I am going to leave you  
before I can get any better girl than  
you. I have loved you better than any  
girl before in my life. I am indeed sorry  
I had to treat you so, but, sweetheart,  
what else was there for me to do? I  
loved you and could never be happy with-  
out you. Love was placed between us  
and duty, and love was stronger."

"I hope papa will come up for me  
alone Sunday, and then we can have our  
little talk on the way home. I do hope  
he will be considerate of our feelings and  
treat us both all right. I have written by Mr. Mitchell  
to his mother concerning Mr. Lee's atti-  
tude."

June 2, 1902—"To-day at 12:30 o'clock,  
with Mabel's consent, I went to Mr. Lee  
and told him that both Mabel and I had  
decided him for good. I told him that I  
had come to say that I might not surprise  
him, but that I knew of nothing more  
manly than to pay to his honor that which  
was due him. Then I proceeded to tell  
him that it was our aim to be married,  
while I was aware that he was unwilling  
to marry his daughter, but that I could  
do nothing more honorable than to  
say that I would like to obtain his  
consent. He thanked me for my manhood,  
and added that he knew my disposition  
and Mabel's, too, and that he did not  
think we were at all suited, and he feared  
our lives would not be as happy as they  
should. But if she had made up her  
mind to marry me that he did not want  
us to run away, but to be married at  
home. I then thanked him for his con-  
sideration, and added that I hoped  
everything would prove satisfactory. I  
bade him good-bye and told him that I  
would hasten to relieve Mabel of the great  
worry that she is now undergoing. I trust  
that our future may be as bright as we both  
have anticipated, and that we have only  
lived in a way prompted by God and in  
the spirit in which He intended man and  
woman to love."

TALK WITH HER FATHER.  
"My dear Bannister—I have finally  
had a talk with papa, and as a result  
I am the most miserable creature on  
earth. I thought I knew what misery  
was, but I have never known before. I  
had rather die than live. My whole life  
has been a failure. I have done no good  
and caused too much trouble. Why was I  
ever born, oh! unhappy creature that I  
am? I see my life in a new light now.  
Papa was so grieved at my deception.  
"He says that you can never come to  
see me nor can you come here. Mabel  
and the children will never enter our  
home. I can never be happy married  
under these circumstances. I am not  
willing to be dishonored by papa for  
anything on earth. I will give up all  
my bright future before I will submit  
to that. These words were not spoken  
hastily, but papa meant them, and he  
will carry them out. He told me to-night  
that he ought to have told me seven  
years ago. . . . I am trying to look at  
this in a fair way, but my deep love for  
you makes it extremely difficult."

"July 28—02.  
"I am so glad you are going to leave the  
"Creek." I know it will be the best thing  
for you to do. May you soon make a  
number of new friends and forget me  
as your sweetheart. . . . Bannister, I  
will always think of you as the one  
(Continued on Tenth Page.)

## DR. WOOD BLINDED BY GAS EXPLOSION

Nearly Killed by Bursting Oil  
Well in Texas.

IN THE HOSPITAL FOR WEEKS

Experiences so Strange That Sufferer  
Fears the Public will Attribute His  
Disappearance to Some Other  
Cause—Will Settle There.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)  
NEW ORLEANS, La., November 15.—  
Dr. Fred A. Wood, the young Richmond  
dentist who has been missing since Au-  
gust 7th, was located here to-night at  
No. 634 South Street by the Times' cor-  
respondent. He says he is under treat-  
ment in the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat  
Hospital.

At first Dr. Wood refused to make any  
statement. Later he was prevailed upon  
to tell everything in connection with his  
disappearance and strange adventures  
since leaving his home.

"I left Richmond August 7th to go to  
Phoenix, Virginia," said he, "I thought  
of locating there, and wanted to consult  
a friend of mine, Dr. Atkinson, who  
lived in Phoenix. When I reached the  
place I found my friend had moved  
away. I then went to Old Point and  
from there to Norfolk. While in Nor-  
folk the notion struck me to go West  
and practice my profession. I had heard  
much of Beaumont, Texas, and thought  
there might be a good opening there.

"Taking the train, I went via Atlanta,  
Montgomery and New Orleans, reaching  
Beaumont August 11th. I looked around  
the town and next day went out to the  
oil fields. Well drillers were at work  
putting down a well at Gladys, and I stood  
near to watch the operation. Two men  
were handling the pipe and one was in  
the derrick. Several others were about.  
Suddenly there was an explosion. I  
learned afterwards that three men near-  
est the well were killed outright. Another  
man and I were knocked senseless and  
completely blinded by the gas which had  
caused the explosion and which came  
pouring out of the well. This man died  
later in the hospital."

TAKEN TO HOSPITAL.  
"They took me to the emergency hospi-  
tal on the field, and there I remained  
about six weeks. From August 12th to  
September 1st I was completely blind. The  
gas had affected my eyes just as if a  
handful of ground glass had been dashed  
into them. I suffered tortures. On the  
14th of September I regained my sight  
and at once wrote a letter to an ac-  
quaintance in Richmond. The strain on  
my eyes was terrible, and I could not  
afterwards, as I had hoped, write to  
my parents. Next morning I woke up  
again totally blind."

"In this condition I remained in the  
emergency hospital for three weeks. The  
nursing given me was very poor, and  
I suppose that was why the physician  
put me on the train and sent me to the  
Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat  
Hospital here. I have been here, I think,  
about six weeks, and am still under  
treatment."

WROTE HIS PARENTS.  
"As soon as I could see well enough I  
wrote to my parents, telling them where  
I was. This was done against the doc-  
tor's orders. They forbid my reading or  
writing."

Dr. Wood said that his eyesight was  
still poor, and that his plans would not  
(Continued on Sixth Page.)

## CONFERS FAVOR UPON A NEGRO

Colored Man to Represent the  
Government Before Spanish  
Commission.

(Special Dispatch to The Times.)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., November 15.—  
Fresh evidence of President Roosevelt's  
intentions to heap favors upon the negro  
to make up for his first throw for the  
"illy white" has come to light. It is learn-  
ed that he has tendered to John S. Dur-  
ham, (colored), of Pennsylvania, an as-  
sistant attorneyship for the government  
before the Spanish Treaty Claims Com-  
mission. Durham was formerly Minister  
to Hayti.

There are several southern men con-  
nected with this commission, among them  
Mr. Hannis Taylor, the prominent Ala-  
bamian. It is also understood that  
Roosevelt will appoint the negro Crum  
collector of the port at Charleston, S. C.

WARREN G. ELLIOTT  
IS MADE PRESIDENT  
(By Associated Press.)  
BALTIMORE, MD., November 15.—At  
a directors' meeting of the Atlantic Coast  
Line of Connecticut, the parent company  
of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, the  
resignation of Henry Walters was re-  
ceived and accepted, and Warren G. El-  
liott was elected president to succeed  
him. Michael Jenkins, of this city, was  
elected a director, and R. D. Cronly, sec-  
retary.

THE METEOR DOES NOT  
PLEASE THE KAISER  
(Special Dispatch to The Times.)  
BERLIN, November 15.—The Kaiser,  
it is reported, has decided to overhaul and  
alter the Meteor, which was launched  
and named by the daughter of President  
Roosevelt in the presence of Prince Henry  
last spring. The Meteor's performances  
and races have never satisfied the Kaiser,



## ADVOCATE MATTER IS BEING STIRRED

Committee on Publishing Inter-  
ests May Bring in Good Report

NO DISAGREEABLE FEATURES

Dr. Lafferty Says it is Merely a Dis-  
cussion of Needed Improvements of  
the Conference Organ—Pro-  
ceedings of the Conference.

After a lengthy session held last night  
at the Broad Street Methodist Church,  
the Committee on Publishing Interests of  
the Virginia Conference, now in annual  
convention here, deferred final action in  
a matter which gives indications of being  
one of the liveliest issues of the present  
conference. Another meeting will be held  
to-morrow, when, it is hoped, the com-  
mittee will be enabled definitely to for-  
mulate its report for submission to the  
general body.

SAID TO BE DISSATISFIED.  
The question agitating the committee  
is a double one, involving the Christian  
Advocate, of this city, the organ of the  
conference, and the colporteur agency.  
Briefly, there is a dissatisfaction among  
some of the members of the committee  
and many members of the conference  
with the methods of management of the  
Advocate, and the same is said to be  
the case with the agency. Rumors in  
connection with the case have been  
abroad for several days, and they multi-  
plied to an alarming extent last night.  
Nearly every minister seen was discus-  
sing "that Advocate matter," and many  
were the speculations of the outcome of  
the discussion. One well known preacher  
described it practically by declaring  
that unless something happens, "there  
be an explosion." Everybody was waiting  
to see what the committee would do.

When the committee finally adjourned,  
however, after a long session, there was  
nothing to be learned, at least nothing  
would be told to an outsider. One of the  
members was questioned, but declared the  
committee had pledged themselves to  
secrecy, and would give out nothing.  
The only thing he would say was that final  
action had been deferred, and that an-  
(Continued on Sixth Page.)

## AN ATTEMPT MADE TO KILL BELGIAN KING

(By Associated Press.)  
BRUSSELS, Nov. 15.—Three shots were  
fired at the King of Belgium this morn-  
ing as he was proceeding to the Cathed-  
ral to attend a Te Deum in memory of  
the late Queen Marie Henrietta.

The man who fired the shots is an Ital-  
ian. He stood in front of the Bank of  
Brussels on the Rue Royale. The other  
cartridges in his revolver proved to be  
blank, so it is presumed that those fired  
were equally harmless.

The man was immediately arrested and  
the police had some difficulty in rescu-  
ing him from the har of the crowd.  
He gave the name of F. Abini.

Abini is a book-keeper. He was born  
at Binardo, near Naples, in 1859, and has  
lately lived in Brussels.

When examined by the police Abini  
confessed that he intended to shoot King  
Leopold and said he held anarchist be-  
liefs.

## THE INFANTA EULALIE LIKES THE AMERICANS

(Special Cable to The Times.)  
PARIS, November 15.—The Infanta Eula-  
lie is zealously cultivating American so-  
ciety in Paris. The past week she spent  
almost exclusively with Americans. She  
began it by attending a concert given by  
Sebastian B. Schiesinger. Next day she  
was a guest at a dinner given by Mrs.  
Charles Carroll, of Carrollton. The next  
day she attended a charitable entertain-  
ment organized by the Countess Spotis-  
woode-Mackin.

A reception at the embassy, a dance  
at General Winslow's and a hunt at the  
chateau of the Countess Stanislaus de  
Castellane occupied the remainder of the  
week. She says she likes American so-  
ciety because there a woman may drink a  
glass of champagne without causing com-  
ment.

## MRS. POTTER PALMER IS FOND OF PARISIANS

(Special Cable to The Times.)  
PARIS, November 15.—Mrs. Potter Pal-  
mer has leased a splendid house near  
the Bois. It is reported that she intends  
to live six months of the year in Paris,  
and fashionable Parisian society will be  
delighted to receive her, as she is one  
of the popular Americans visiting France.  
M. Crozier, former master of ceremonies  
at the Elysee Palace, declares that noth-  
ing will better please French society than  
to have Mrs. Palmer a resident of Paris.  
It is expected that the Princess Canta-  
cuzene will spend the season with her  
aunt.

## COMMISSION IS SETTLED UPON

Judge Beverley T. Crump to Be  
the Lawyer Member.

STUART AND FAIRFAX ACEPT

Governor Montague to Send the Nom-  
inations in To-morrow or Tuesday,  
and They Will Be at Once Con-  
firmed—Other Live Gossip.

The membership of the new State Cor-  
poration Commission has been made up  
by Governor Montague, and the nomi-  
nations will be sent to the Legislature  
for confirmation to-morrow or Tuesday,  
certainly not later than the latter date.

The members will be Hon. Beverley T.  
Crump, lawyer, Richmond city; Hon.  
Henry Fairfax, farmer, Russell county;  
Hon. Henry Fairfax, railroad man, Loui-  
siana county. The Legislature will con-  
firm them in both branches without ques-  
tion or delay, and they will take charge  
of their important work on March 1, 1903.  
Governor Montague could have made no  
wiser selections, and his choice is being  
commended and praised on all hands.  
He had over a hundred applicants, some  
with powerful political and business back-  
ing, but his Excellency turned in his  
wisdom to three men who were in no  
sense candidates and who had to be ear-  
nestly urged to accept. Their very names  
will inspire the broadest measure of  
public confidence from the outset, and  
is being freely predicted that they will  
hold the scales of justice with steady  
and even hands between the people on the one  
side and the great corporate interests of  
the State on the other.

STRONG JUDICIAL MIND.  
Beverley T. Crump possesses an essen-  
tially judicial mind, and has in him the  
stuff that great lawyers and jurists are  
made of. He is about forty-five years of  
age, and is regarded as one of the most  
profound lawyers in Virginia. He is a  
man of exceeding modesty, and all the  
distinguished honors that have come to  
him have been absolutely unsought. In  
1893 he was elected to the House of De-  
legates at the head of his ticket, and at  
the end of his term declined to stand

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

## 'VARSITY DEFEATS BLACKSBURG CADETS

YALE WON GAME  
FROM PRINCETON

Sensational Runs Made by the  
Cap. of the Blue.

WONDERFUL KICK BY DEWITT

He Saved His Team from a Drubbing.  
"Old El's" Rush Line Was Pow-  
erful—Chadwick's Fine  
Runs.

By HARRY BEECHER.  
(Special Dispatch to The Times.)  
NEW YORK, Nov. 15.—By two sensa-  
tional runs of over fifty yards each,  
George Chadwick, captain of the Yale  
football team, practically led his team  
to victory over Princeton.

How he ever got through the Tiger line  
is still a mystery, unless he has the  
power to contract his form to toothpick  
dimensions.

Goss, Yale's right guard, who is known  
as "the strong man," and has been break-  
ing all strength tests at New Haven,  
both times made the hole for him. It  
was only a crevice, but Chadwick  
squeezed through and found himself  
clear. Picking up his speed, he rumped  
down the field to such touchdowns.  
DeWitt, who was relied upon by Prince-  
ton to win the game, did his best, and by  
his wonderful field goal from the forty  
yard line gave aid Nassau her only score.

His punting, too, saved the Tigers from  
a severe drubbing. "Time" came again  
Yale's attack drove Princeton into a situ-  
ation where DeWitt's punts were abso-  
lutely necessary to save a score. No  
man, however, can play a star game at  
yard and at the same time do himself  
justice in kicking. As Chadwick tore  
on DeWitt's strength ebbed. His punts  
lost their power and he left the field a  
tired boy.

IT WAS A SURPRISE.  
The Yale team in all around play sur-  
prised even her best friends. Rockwell,  
the freshman quarter back, ran the team  
with the bravado of a veteran. Not a  
rumble marred his play and, small as  
he was, he helped the runner every time.  
His judgment was correct and he kept  
the whole pack of grants on their toes  
from start to finish. Yale has not had  
a better quarter back since the days of  
Vance McCormack, was the opinion of  
the old-timers. There was no rattle in  
his makeup and an leeburg was not in  
comparison to his composure. Prince-  
ton's set on backs, who are noted for  
their headless, found the Yale line too  
strenuous to pass. Try as they might,  
they could only gain distance by spasms.  
There was no continuity to the advance.  
Glass, Goss, Hogan and Shevlin ripped  
through the Princeton line and threw the  
runners before they had gained their  
speed.

The result was that the Tigers were  
forced to play a kicking game. It was  
their only recourse. Not once during  
the game did they have the ball within  
striking distance of Yale's goal line.

YALE'S FINE PLAYING.  
Stark's aggressive work in rushing was  
the prime feature of the game. She used  
her tackle back formation with such vigor  
and ferociousness that the Princeton line  
crumbled. She almost held attack on  
Brown and Bradley, and at times had  
these two gentlemen completely on the  
run. Hogan, Kinney, Chadwick and Met-  
calf were the apex of the tandems. These  
plays started with the speed of a loc-  
omotive, and had back of them the power  
of a cyclone. They bruised every point  
of the line that they touched, and were  
ground gainers. Princeton's wonderful de-

(Continued on Second Page.)

## CONDUCTOR WAS SHOT AND KILLED

His Slayer a Merchant, Who  
Was Jealous of the Rail-  
way Man.

(By Associated Press.)  
CHARLESTON, S. C., November 15.—  
A News and Courier special from Green-  
ville, S. C., says: B. F. Rush, a well  
known merchant of this city, this morn-  
ing shot and killed J. T. Stephens, a  
freight conductor on the Southern Rail-  
way.

The shooting is said to have been the  
result of intimate relations between  
Stephens and Mrs. Rush.

In the altercation, Stephens attempted  
to pull his pistol, but Rush got the drop  
on him and fired. Stephens is thirty  
years of age and unmarried, and it is  
said that letters were found on his person  
from Mrs. Rush, in which he was urged  
to settle the matter with Rush. Mrs.  
Rush is now said to be living with an  
uncle in Texas.

YOUNG VANDERBILT SAVED  
LIFE OF HIS SWEETHEART  
(Special Dispatch to The Times.)  
OAKDALE, L. I., November 15.—Miss  
Catherine Nelson, the charming fiancée  
of Reginald Vanderbilt, whose engage-  
ment is being celebrated by a big house  
party at Idle Hour, the country place  
of the young man's uncle, William K.  
Vanderbilt, was to-day saved from what  
might have been a serious accident, her  
rescuer being no other than her future  
husband.

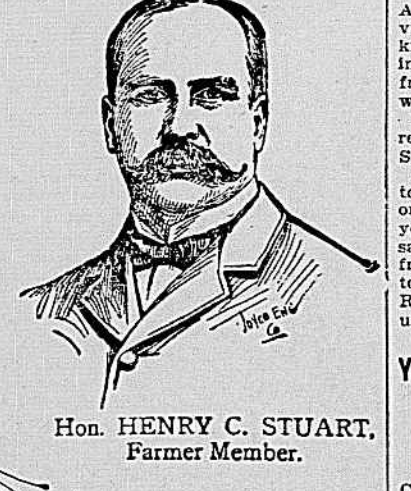
Just as Miss Nelson was stepping from  
the Pullman car on her arrival here with  
a gay party of friends, the train backed  
suddenly to take off the score of trucks,  
and the lurch caused her to lose her bal-  
ance. As she was falling, she screamed  
and tried to catch hold of the hand-rail,  
but her furs prevented. Fortunately, Reg-  
inald, who had just stepped off the train,  
rushed forward and held Miss Nelson on  
the steps until the train stopped.

"I'm all right," gaily laughed the young  
woman, tripping to the carriage, "but  
it did give me a fright."

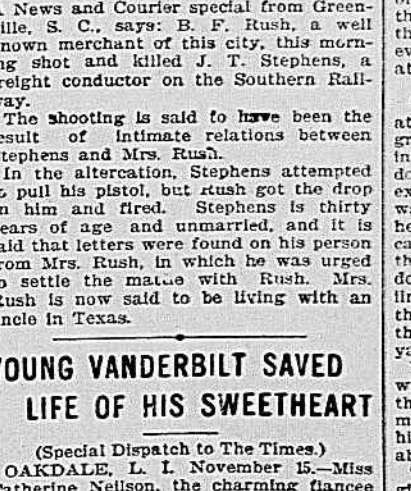
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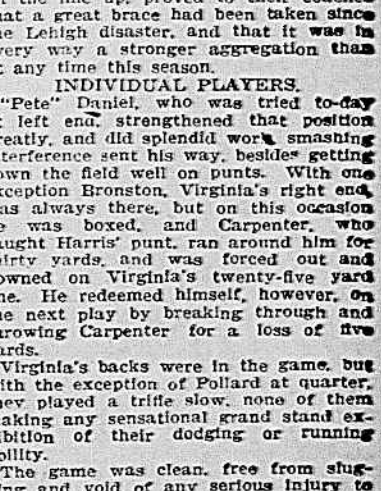
Hon. HENRY FAIRFAX,  
Railroad Man.



Hon. HENRY C. STUART,  
Farmer Member.



Hon. HENRY C. STUART,  
Farmer Member.



Hon. HENRY C. STUART,  
Farmer Member.